USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

Iraq: Winter Grains Production

MY 2008/09 **March 21, 2008**

Week 3 Summary

1. Production for MY 2008/09 winter wheat and barley crop is forecasted to be lower than the previous year, particularly in the northern rainfed governorates due to poor precipitation during the planting and establishment of winter grains.
2. In the past 30days, the northern rainfed governorates have received between6 12 days of precipitation, but cumulative precipitation for MY 2008/09 remains well below normal (Figure 1).
3. A vegetation abundance map derived fromAWiFSIRS-P6NDVI showed that cropland productivity in the northern governorates was highest in parts of As Sulaymaniyah, Diyala, and At Ta'min. Cropland productivity in the southern irrigated governorates was highest in the provinces of Babil, Wasit, and Al Qadisiyah (Figure 2).
4. A change detection analysis that assesses crop progression within season was conducted using AWiFS NDVI composites that ranged fromFebruary19th, 2008 to March19th, 2008. Portions of the northern rainfed governorates of As Sulaymaniyah and Diyala showed significant increases, primarily in close proximity to water sources such as Buhayrat Darbandikhan and Diyala River. The southern irrigated governorates of Babil, Wasit, and Al Qadisiyah showed concentrated areas of increase that appear to be geographically restricted (Figure 3).
5. High resolution Quickbird imagery acquired over AOI #6 (Ninawa) between November 24th, 2007and March16th, 2008 showed no noticeable change or increases in cropland cover. The sample area covers approximately 35,000 ha of arable cropland (Figure 4).

* Provincial cropland area statistics will be provided in the April pre-lockup report.

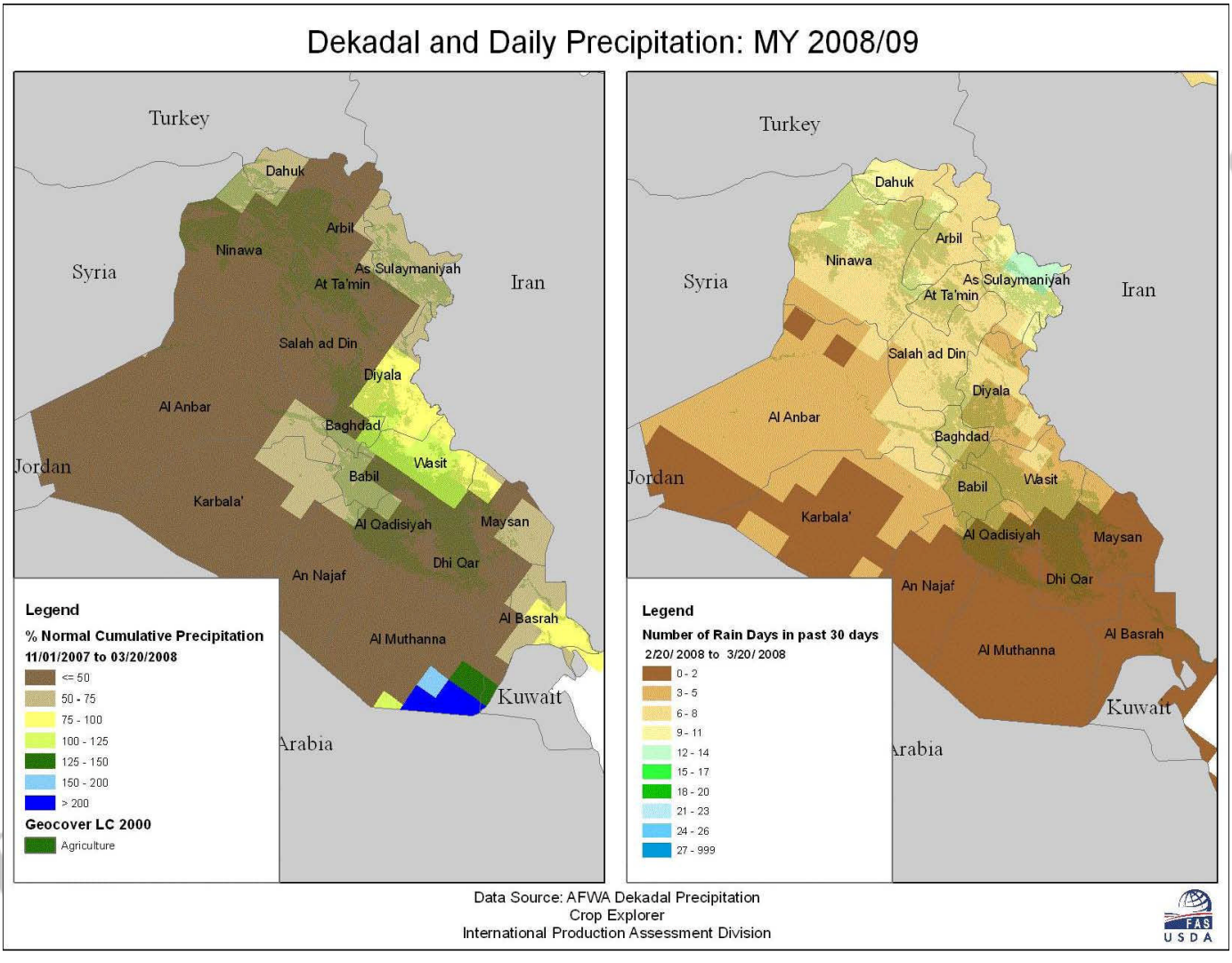

Figure 1: AFWA precipitation for MY 2008/09: Percent normal cumulative precipitation between Nov 1st, 2007 and Mar 21st, 2008 and number of rain days in the last 30-days.

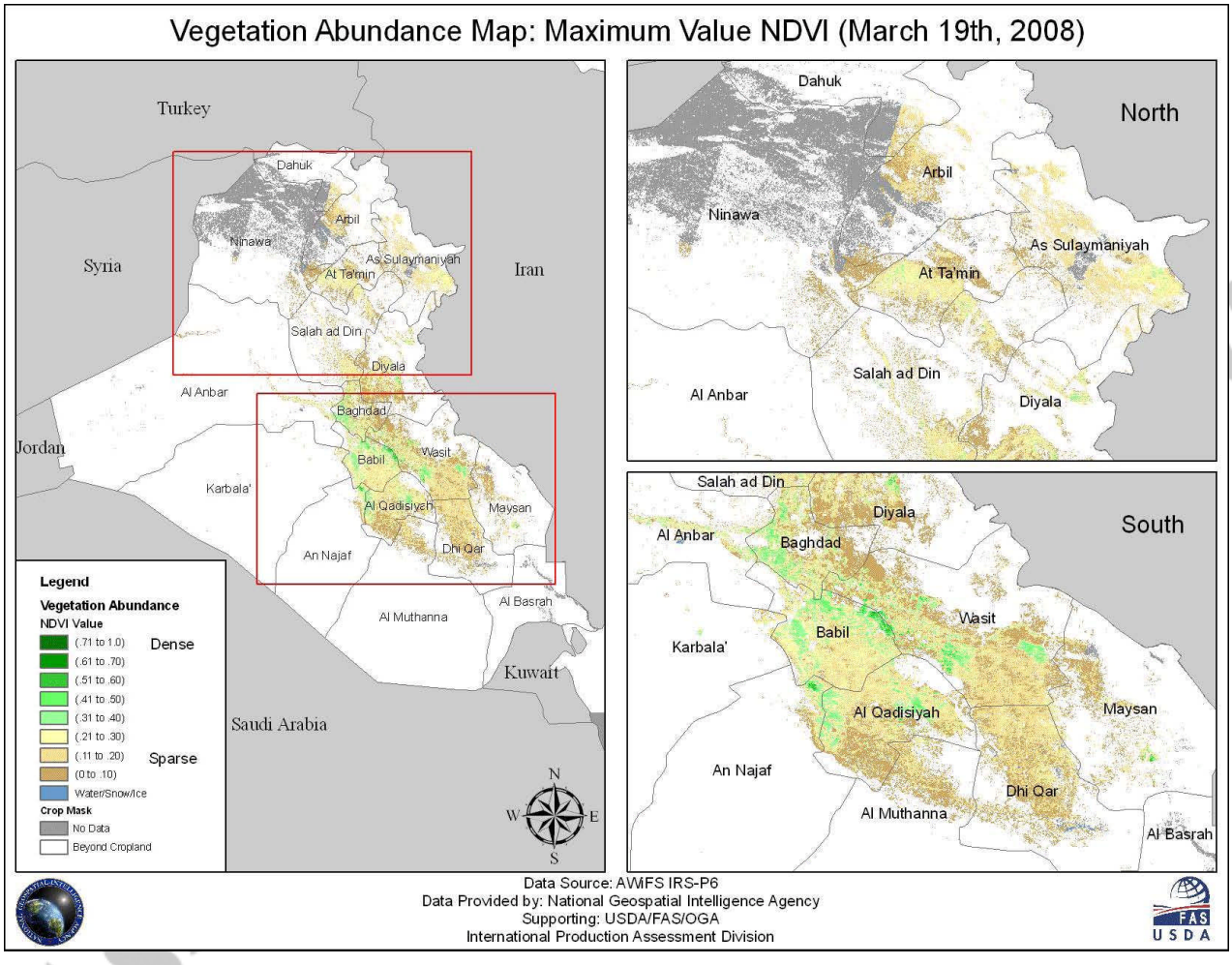

Figure 2: Cropland abundance derived from AWiFS IRS P-6 moderate resolution satellite imagery: March 19th, 2009.

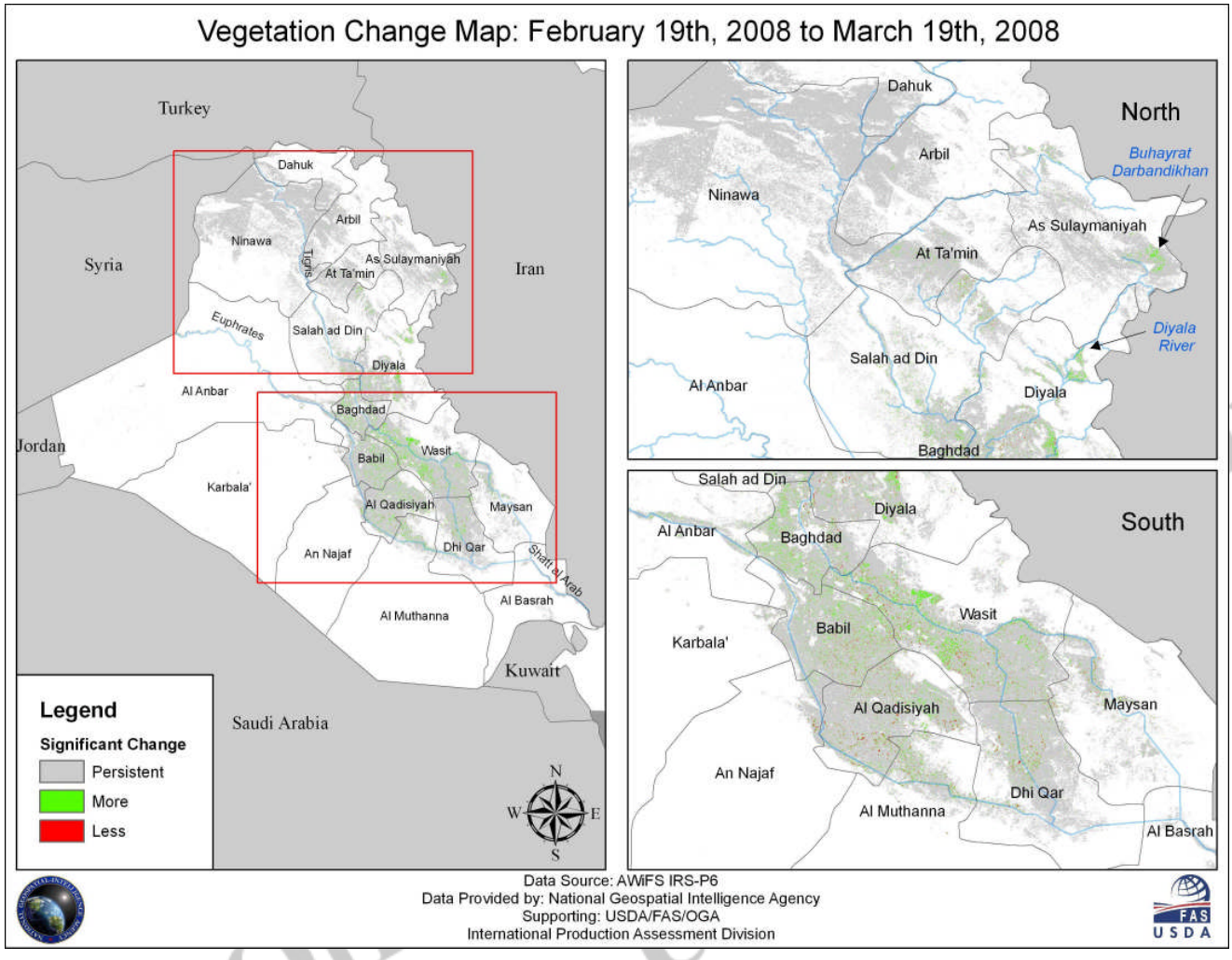

Figure 3: Significant change in cropland abundance: MY 2009/09 (February 19th, 2008 to March 19th, 2009.

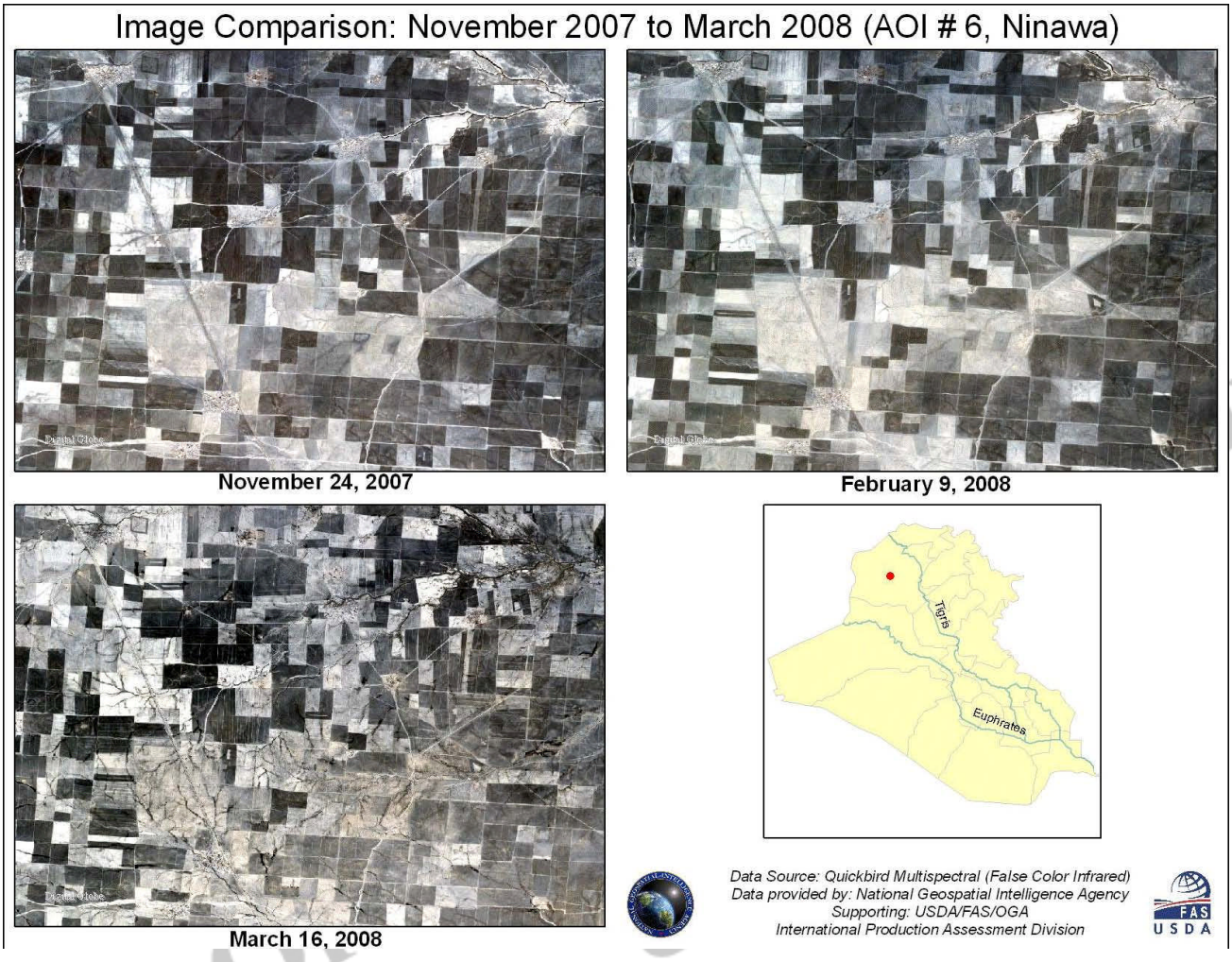

Figure 4: High resolution Quickbird imagery acquired during the months of November 2007, February 2008, and March 2008 (AOI #6 Ninawa).